

## HOUSE RESOLUTION 42

By Rinks

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Christopher Lee Harmon on his years of distinguished service to the Tennessee General Assembly.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the House of Representatives should honor those outstanding staff members who in their years of work have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, Christopher Lee Harmon is one such estimable person who served with distinction for more than eight years as Executive Assistant/Leadership for the House Democratic Caucus and Caucus Chairman Randy Rinks and has recently taken leave of this august body, having accepted employment with the Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration; and

WHEREAS, the son of Lonnie and Linda Harmon, Chris Harmon is a native Tennessean hailing from scenic Hardin County, where he graduated from the local high school before relocating to Nashville to further his education at David Lipscomb University; and

WHEREAS, it was while pursuing a degree in Political Science at Lipscomb that Mr. Harmon first entered the realm of the Tennessee General Assembly as an intern in 1997, having gained a position with his hometown legislator, Representative Randy "Bear" Rinks; and

WHEREAS, quickly becoming an integral part of Chairman Rinks' staff, Chris was given the nicknames "Nightshift" and "Nightbear" in reference to his work/school schedule and his dedication to the office and Representative Rinks; and

WHEREAS, since accepting a full-time regular state employee position with Chairman Rinks and the House Democratic Caucus in December of 1998, Chris Harmon has met every challenge with the utmost dedication and a keen intellectual deliberation, which has garnered accolades and esteemed approval from the membership of the House Democratic Caucus; and

WHEREAS, an ambitious young man, Mr. Harmon earned a Master of Arts degree in Public Administration during his tenure with the Caucus and is currently enrolled in the doctoral program at Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Harmon has diligently worked side by side with the leadership staff of the Tennessee House of Representatives, aiding the key personnel of the Speaker of the House and four different House Majority Leaders during their terms, but will always be the kindred spirit of Chairman Rinks' Executive Assistant Connie Phelps, who loves him like a son; and

WHEREAS, Chris Harmon proved himself time and again as a capable staffer to Rep. Rinks, through his days of dedicated toil at the Wild West Shootout for St. Jude, his attention to detail at every Democratic Caucus event, and his unflagging support of House leadership; and

WHEREAS, a fun-loving individual who plays as hard as he works, Nightbear has been known to cut a rug - either by moonwalking or by performing a Broadway showcase of his Phantom of the Opera moves and is quick to impart his unsurpassed impressions of famous Tennesseans, goad his fellow staffers with an Ode to a Turban, lead the charge for another hot chicken luncheon, and share his jovial personality and rapier wit with friend and foe alike; and

WHEREAS, supported in his many endeavors by his beloved wife, the former Melissa Sanders, Chris Harmon exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Mr. Harmon has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of the members of the General Assembly and his colleagues; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor and thank Christopher Lee Harmon for his honorable and astute service to Chairman Randy Rinks and the House Democratic Caucus during his exemplary tenure as a member of the staff of the Tennessee House of Representatives and the Tennessee General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this body extends to Mr. Harmon our best wishes for every success in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.